

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 IO-11 EUR-12 AID-05 /086 W

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R 251130Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7466

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0676

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, YE

SUBJECT: POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO HAMDI

REF: SANA 597

SUMMARY: HAMDI MOVES TO STRENGTHEN HIS INTERNAL POSITION
IN WAKE OF INCIDENTS.

1. SINCE BOMBINGS REPORTED REFTEL SANA HAS BEEN QUIET,
THANKS TO HEAVY INTERNAL SECURITY CONTROLS. INFORMED
OFFICIALS ADMIT HOWEVER THAT, DESPITE VARIETY OF
ARRESTS, ACTUAL BOMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPREHENDED.
ACCORDING FONMIN ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ, YARG HAS BEEN
WORKING TO ISOLATE ABU SHAWARIB WHOM ASNAJ
SAYS IS WORKING WITH ABU LUHUM TO MOUNT CHALLENGE
TO REGIME.

2. ASNAJ DISCOUNTS SERIOUSNESS OF CHALLENGE BUT
SAYS APPOINTMENT TO POST OF AMBASSADOR TO US OF
YAHYA MUTAWAKKIL, WHO IS "COMPLETELY TIED UP WITH
MUSHIN AL-AYNI" WAS MATCHED BY APPOINTMENT OF ABDAL
MALIK TAYYIB AS AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA.

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3. ASNAJ ALSO SAYS HAMDI NOW FEELS THAT SUFFICIENT
TIME HAS PASSED SINCE LAST DISAGREEMENT WITH SAUDIS

THAT HAMDİ CAN APPOINT ABDALLAH BIN HUSSEIN AL-AHMAR
TO PRESTIGIOUS (BUT POWERLESS) YARG DOMESTIC POST.
ASNAJ SAID HAMDİ REFUSED EVEN TO GIVE CEREMONIAL
JOB TO ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN IF IT WOULD APPEAR HE
WOULD BE ACTING UNDER FOREIGN PRESSURE. NOW, HOWEVER,
ASNAJ EXPECTS ABDALLAH TO RETURN IN NEXT FEW DAYS
FROM KHAMR WHERE HE HAS BEEN ILL FOR LAST TWO WEEKS.
POST SHOULD BE ANNOUNCED AFTERWARDS.

4. ASNAJ SAID WITH FAIRLY STRAIGHT FACE THAT ABU SHAWARIB
HAS DECLINED YARG OFFER TO BE MILATT IN MOSCOW. HE
WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF YARG COULD CONTINUE TO STRIP
AWAY POTENTIAL ABU SHAWARIB ALLIES LIKE
MUTAWAKKIL AND ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN, HAMDİ CAN CONTINUE
HIS PRESENT POLICY OF NOT ACTING FORCIBLY AGAINST
ABU SHAWARIB AND HIS TRIBAL ALLIES.

5. TO PROVE SUCCESS OF THIS POLICY ASNAJ REFERRED
TO RECENT VISIT OF MININT YUSUFI TO NORTHERN TRIBAL
AREAS TO NEGOTIATE REMOVAL ROAD BLOCKS ON WAY TO
JAWF AND SAADA. ROAD HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN CUT TO SOME
KIND OF GOVERNMENT (BUT NOT PRIVATE) TRAFFIC BUT NOW,
SAYS ASNAJ ROUTES ARE UNOBSTRUCTED.

6. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY NOTES THAT ROUTES INTO
SANAA HAVE BEEN INVESTED (AND WERE REINFORCED DURING
13-16 FEBRUARY SCARE) EVER SINCE TURKI MISSION LAST
OCTOBER.
RANSOM

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